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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 14 | Humidity 43% Mostly sunny Sensex 85,041 | Nifty 26,042 | Gold 1,39,761 | Silver 2,35,097 | Dollar 89.77 | Euro 105.79 | GBP 121.39

After whistle-blower goes to cops about residents' welfare association framing unauthorised internal rules to conduct inquiries into serious offences involving residents, experts issue warning on breakdown of rule of law, distortion of crime data

JUDGE, JURY & EXECUTIONER

Criminal cases must be reported immediately to law enforcement agencies, police say

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Bengaluru police recently registered a first information report after a whistleblower alleged that a residents' welfare association at an apartment complex in the city was handling criminal matters internally instead of reporting them to the police.

The complaint relates to an apartment complex in the Doddabele area, where the association and a private security agency are accused of framing unauthorised internal rules and conducting inquiries into serious offences involving residents. These allegedly included cases related to drug use, theft and sexual harassment.

> **Residents' associations are not neutral institutions. When they act as judges, vulnerable groups — including women, tenants and domestic workers — may face intimidation or coercion**
> —Researcher

According to the whistleblower's letter submitted to the Kumbalagodu police, the association held internal hearings, imposed monetary penalties, and decided whether the accused residents could continue staying in the complex or would be asked to vacate. The letter claimed that fines running into several lakhs of rupees were collected over a few months without any official complaints being filed with the police.

The whistleblower further alleged that such actions denied victims access to legal remedies and allowed accused persons to avoid formal investigation. Several incidents were allegedly settled in this manner over the past year, raising concerns about systematic suppression of criminal complaints.

Police officials stated that residents' associations or private security agencies have no legal authority to investigate offences, conduct trials or impose punishments. Criminal cases must be reported immediately to law enforcement agencies, they stressed.

Based on the complaint, police have registered an FIR against the association office-bearers and others concerned under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for failure to report offences and for concealing information. Sections of the law relating to narcotics offences have also been invoked in connection with the allegations involving drugs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

POLL VAULT

Ball rolling for campus polls after 35 years as committee to study feasibility, framework and implications of conducting elections

PAGE 3

CONCRETE FOLLY

Concretisation of drains provokes residents and activists, who demand corporation's Climate Action Cell wake up and get future-ready

PAGE 6

Available in leading chemist outlets.

*Paracetamol, Phenylephrine, Diphenhydramine, Caffeine. #Relief of symptoms of congestion & allergy. Pappas DE & Hendley JO. Pediatrics in Review 2011;32(2): 47-55. medsafe.govt.nz/ profs/class/Agendas/agen32-Phenylephrine.pdf. If symptoms persist, please consult your doctor. Cipla® and Cheston™ : Licensed by Cipla Limited. Creative Visualization.

THINGS TO DO

01 For your furry friends

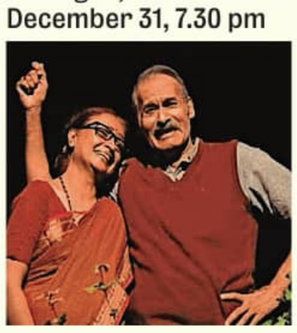
Pet Fed is back with two days of pure joy for pets and pet lovers alike, bringing paw-sitivity, fun, and unforgettable experiences. **Where: KTPO, Whitefield; When: January 17, 11 am**

02 Epic echoes

Bangalore Little Theatre is presenting a stage adaptation of the 2nd-century Tamil epic following the fateful journey of Kannagi, the devoted wife of Kovalan, and her timeless legend about chastity, truth, and the devastating cost of injustice. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: February 7, 8, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

03 Curtain call

Kalagangotri Team is presenting 'Sooji Mallige', a heartfelt social drama filled with emotion and values, narrating the tale of a couple— two lives intertwined, walking hand in hand through the journey of togetherness. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: December 31, 7.30 pm**



04 Celebrate in style

SOCIAL invites guests across its outlets pan-India to ring in the New Year with SOCIAL ANIMALS, a concept built around the idea that no two people party the same way. **Where: All SOCIAL outlets; When: December 31, 7 pm**

05 Tell tale

Ranga Shankara returns with its signature intimate storytelling programme, Little Cloud, packed with an enchanting experience of creativity, laughter and imagination. The sessions are held for children aged 4 to 6 every Saturday and Sunday. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: January 3 to March 15, 10 am**

Running against all odds, every single day

Man runs consecutive half marathons every day for past year, showcasing how even difficult tasks can be accomplished with power of consistency, resilience and passion

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Inset: Members of Free Runners felicitated Rohit Maiya on Sunday for his achievement

Runners' collective honours Bengaluru running enthusiast's rare feat, highlighting how his journey stands as beacon of inspiration, encouraging individuals to embrace fitness as way of life

Many people in Bengaluru skip their morning walks during the monsoon and winter seasons on one pretext or another. Reasons for skipping may vary from one fitness enthusiast to another, depending on their commitment to and focus on physical fitness. However, here is a person who is set to complete 365 consecutive half marathons (21.1 km each) every single day throughout 2025. Born asthmatic, he never considered his health condition an impediment to his enthusiasm.

50-year-old running enthusiast Rohit Maiya, a resident of Dollars Colony, achieved an extraordinary feat by completing 365 consecutive half marathons (21.1 km each) every single day throughout 2025. Starting on January 1, 2025, Rohit ran without missing a single day, covering an astonishing total distance of 7,701.5 kilometres over the year. This achievement is exceptionally rare — global checks indicate that fewer than 10 similar feats have ever been reported. Rohit's dedication exemplifies the power of consistency, resilience and passion for fitness.

"My father, Srinivasa Maiya, passed away after I completed my 298th half marathon. I decided not to stop running and wanted to complete 300 half marathons by running for two more days. I considered it a tribute to my father, who never asked me to stop running, even when other family members advised me against it, fearing it would damage my knees. My father always told me to continue running as long as it suited me," Maiya said.

The initiative was supported by Free Runners, a community near Sankey Tank that promotes fitness and the joy of running without affiliations or strings attached. Maiya's journey stands as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging individuals to embrace fitness as a way of life.

To honour this remarkable accomplishment, Free Runners held a felicitation ceremony on December 28, 2025, at Sankey Tank, Bengaluru. The event celebrated Maiya's perseverance and encouraged others to take up running and healthy living.

"I was helping a girl complete a 24-km run around Sankey Tank on December 31, 2024. I also ran a half marathon that day. I then thought of achieving a hat-trick by running another half marathon on January 1, 2025. That was my first back-to-back half marathon. I later continued running a half marathon every day. I started running regularly during Covid-19 and later joined Free Runners. It helped me a lot, and I succeeded in losing more than 20 kg. I now want to join a gym and take up swimming to maintain my fitness," Maiya said. Members of Free Runners gathered to felicitate Rohit Maiya on Sunday morning. "Rohit is an inspiration for us. This milestone shows that with discipline, even the impossible becomes possible," said Giridhar LV, a member of Free Runners.

Krishnan, founder of Free Runners, said that Rohit personifies the spirit of 'Shut Up and Run'. "We wish him injury-free running for years to come," he said.

Santosh, captain of Free Runners, said he was incredibly proud of Maiya for completing 365 consecutive days of half marathons. He said that this is not just a test of physical endurance, but a powerful demonstration of discipline, mental strength and unwavering commitment. He opined that Maiya has set a new benchmark for consistency and resilience in the running community. "His journey will inspire Free Runners for years to come. He is also a wonderful person who is always willing to support fellow runners. He hosted us at his native home during the Udupi Marathon and regularly paces runners who need support," Santosh added.

Temples gear up for Vaikuntha Ekadashi

Bengaluru's temples are making special arrangements for devotees ahead of Vaikuntha Ekadashi on December 30. At the Sri Venkateshwara Swamy Temple in Vyalikaval, continuous darshan will be available from 5 am to 11.45 am, with provisions for orderly queues, drinking water, and uninterrupted anna-prasadam distribution. The temple will also offer laddus for sale at Rs 50 each from 3 am, along with calendars, diaries, other TTD products, and a health camp.

Similar arrangements have been made at ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill and Hare Krishna Giri in Rajajinagar, including early morning abhishekam, palanquin processions, Vaikuntha Dwara puja, laksharchana services, and kalyanotsavam at multiple timings. Devotees can avail darshan from morning until night, with all facilities managed for smooth movement and comfort. TTD board member S Naresh Kumar noted that while 24 lakh devotees have registered in Tirupati, only about 30,000 daily can be accommodated through a lucky draw system over two days, with special attention to security and amenities for all participant.

— BMB

Schedule released for PUC practical exams

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has released the schedule for the Second PUC practical examinations. The exams, conducted annually at the district level under the supervision of respective Deputy Directors, are scheduled from January 27 to February 14, 2026. District Deputy Directors will hold full responsibility for conducting the exams. Strict measures have been advised this year to ensure students earn maximum marks in practicals while meeting minimum requirements in theory exams. Examination centres are instructed to include all prescribed experiments from the syllabus rather than limiting students to specific tasks. Admission cards for students appearing for the practicals will be issued through the PU Exam Portal and must be printed and distributed by college principals, indicating exam dates, times, and group numbers. — BMB

Special dental counselling round announced

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced a special counselling round on December 31 for allocation of the remaining five seats in the dental course after the regular seat allotment. Eligible candidates who have not yet secured a seat must submit the prescribed DD and original documents at the KEA office by 11.30 am. Document verification will be followed by option entry from 12 pm to 1 pm, and the results will be declared at 2 pm. Candidates allotted seats must complete college admission formalities by January 1, KEA has instructed.

Medical seat allotment today

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced that the remaining eight medical seats, including cancellations after the second round of counselling, will be allotted on December 29. Of these, five seats are available at MVJ Medical College, Hosakote, two at MRMC, Kalaburagi, and one at SDM Medical College, Dharwad, vacated due to a candidate's health issues. Eligible candidates can participate in this special round by submitting the prescribed course fee via DD and reporting to the KEA office by 12 pm. Seat selection will be allowed after reporting, and the final allotment results will be declared at 2 pm, KEA Executive Director Prasanna said. — BMB

Congress weighs return of campus elections after 35 years

Believing that student bodies ensure better representation of voices and help with academic discipline, party has initiated internal deliberations that could shape future policy decision

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FILE PHOTO

After a gap of more than three decades, the Congress-led Karnataka government is seriously considering the reintroduction of student elections in colleges across the state. Student union polls have remained banned since 1989–90 following violent incidents on campuses. As a first formal step towards reviewing the long-standing prohibition, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee has constituted a high-level committee to study the feasibility, framework and implications of conducting student elections once again.

Party move

According to a latest directive issued by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President DK Shivakumar, the decision follows sustained feedback from party leaders and workers who argue that student elections play a key role in promoting democratic values among young citizens. It is significant that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar began his political journey as a student leader, rising through the ranks from campus politics.

Clear deadline

According to the Congress party, elected student bodies help instil leadership qualities, ensure better representation of student voices and contribute to maintaining academic discipline. With these considerations, the party has initiated internal deliberations that could shape a future policy decision by the state government. To examine the issue in detail, a committee comprising ministers, legislators and senior party functionaries has been formed. Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanprakash Patil has been appointed as the convenor, while Higher Education Minister Dr Sudhakar is also part of the panel and the committee has been asked to submit a comprehensive report within 15 days.

Key questions

As part of its terms of reference, the committee will study the levels at which student elections can be held and evaluate the advantages, disadvantages and broader impact of conducting polls. A major focus will be on whether elections should be party-based, ideology-driven or completely non-political with a sole emphasis on student welfare. The panel will also examine eligibility criteria for candidates, the election process and systems to be adopted, and mechanisms to ensure transparency in expenditure.

Party has formed committee comprising ministers, legislators and senior functionaries, who will study levels at which student elections can be held and evaluate advantages, disadvantages and impact of polls

Campus violence

Student elections in Karnataka colleges were halted in the 1989–90 academic year after a series of violent incidents, including murders, linked to party-based student unions. The then Veerendra Patil-led Congress government imposed the ban to curb growing political interference, caste-based rivalries and law and order problems on campuses. Following the ban, colleges moved to non-party systems where student representatives were either nominated or selected through alternative, apolitical processes. Over the years, successive governments cited the same concerns of safety, campus harmony and administrative control as reasons for continuing the ban, even as demands to restore elections surfaced periodically.

Current debate

Sources said that discussions on reviving student elections resurfaced in 2018–19 with talk of committees and consultations, and gained momentum again in 2025. In July 2025, Congress leaders said the party high command had asked the state government to restart elections, beginning with government colleges.

B'luru air turns dirtier month by month, 2025 worst in five years

Bengaluru's air quality has shown a steady month-on-month decline in 2025, overtaking pollution levels recorded five years ago and marking the city's worst performance in recent times. Data from monitoring centres shows that the average Air Quality Index has crossed 2020 levels, with overall air quality dropping by 22 per cent compared to last year.

Grim comparison

In February 2020, Bengaluru's average AQI stood at 131. By December 27 this year, the average had climbed to 143, indicating a clear deterioration. On December 21, the city recorded an AQI of 175, placing it firmly in the unhealthy category. Experts point out that breathing Bengaluru's air for a day is now equivalent to smoking nearly three cigarettes, underlining the health risk posed by prolonged exposure. Compared to previous years, 2025 has emerged as the most polluted year in the last five-year period.

Seasonal spike

Pollution levels began rising sharply after October this year. From December 5 onwards, the daily average AQI has consistently remained above 149. The city recorded a one-day average AQI of 166 on December 15, the second-highest daily average of the year.

A similar spike was seen on November 28, when the AQI touched 167. Between October 1 and December 15, November 22 was the only day when the AQI dipped to a relatively low 52, falling under the good category, according to the data.

Monthly pattern

Month-wise data for 2025 shows worrying fluctuations. Out of 361 days in 2025 till December 27, Bengaluru enjoyed good air quality in only two days. Air quality was satisfactory on 253 days, moderate on 81 days and unhealthy on 24 days. **BMB**

Bengaluru turns fortress for New Year

With an estimated crowd of over 10 lakh people expected to ring in the New Year, Bengaluru will be placed under an unprecedented security cover with nearly 20,000 police personnel deployed across the city. Senior police officers have held multiple rounds of meetings to finalise arrangements, while Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar chaired a high-level review on Sunday to assess preparedness and law and order measures. Police officials say the city will virtually turn into a fortified zone to manage the massive influx of revellers.

Crowd hotspots

Based on past experience, MG Road, Brigade Road, Indiranagar, Koramangala and Neeladri Road in Electronic City have been identified as major congregation points.

Last year, over eight lakh people turned out for New Year celebrations. This year, the police department expects a higher turnout and has scaled up arrangements accordingly to prevent overcrowding and untoward incidents.

Force deployment

A total of 14,000 personnel from the law and order wing, 2,500 traffic police, 88 KSRP platoons and 21 CAR platoons will be on duty.

The deployment also includes 266 Hoysala patrol vehicles and 250 Cheetah vehicles. In addition, 400 traffic wardens, civil defence volunteers and home guards have been pressed into service. Water cannons will be kept ready at sensitive locations to manage crowd surges if required.

Tech surveillance

Security will be reinforced with technology-driven monitoring. Around 250 temporary CCTV cameras have been installed at key locations, along with safety shelters and ambulance stations. Police will use drones to keep a close watch on dense crowds, while AI-enabled facial recognition cameras will help identify persons with criminal backgrounds in real time and alert control rooms.

Safe transport

To ensure revellers return home safely after celebrations, police will maintain strict vigil around bars, restaurants, malls, metro corridors and entertainment hubs. Watch towers have been erected at vulnerable points and 180 high-intensity focus lights installed. Vehicle checks and police access control points have been activated to enable quick response. In case taxis are unavailable, special transport facilities have been arranged at eight locations across the city.

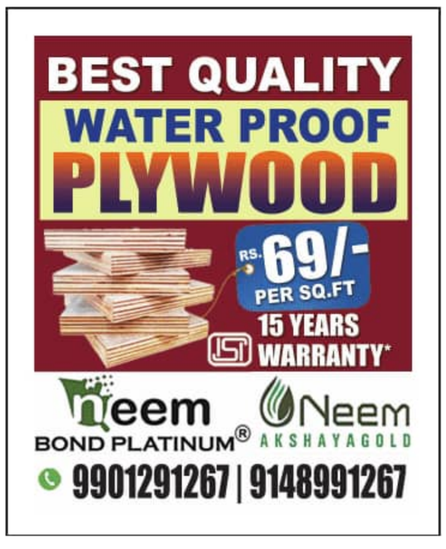
Heat mapping

For the first time, the city police have introduced a QR code-based heat map system to guide the public and manage crowds. Areas with heavy footfall will be marked in red, emerging crowd zones in yellow and low-density areas in green. The system will be monitored from the command centre and used to dynamically deploy forces and ease congestion.

Focus on women's security

Addressing concerns over safety, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar said special emphasis would be placed on women's security and crowd control during New Year celebrations. He added that bar, restaurant and mall owners have been issued clear guidelines, and heightened security measures are also in place keeping potential terror threats in mind.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Police Dr M A Saleem, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh and other senior officials.



Domlur marks three years of community-led cleanliness drive

Residents sustain neighbourhood transformation through volunteer-led drives targeting plastic misuse, spitting, dumping and weak waste discipline

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(Inset) Residents and volunteers participate in a cleanliness drive in Domlur Layout, marking three years of sustained community action

As Bengaluru continues to grapple with littered streets, plastic waste and poor segregation, a resident-led cleanliness initiative in Domlur Layout has quietly completed three years this week, demonstrating how sustained community action can bring visible change. What began in December 2022 as a monthly clean-up has evolved into a multi-pronged effort involving residents, volunteers, civic marshals and vendors, focusing not only on cleaning streets but also on reducing waste at the source.

Grassroot action

The timing of the first drive was intentional. "Our monthly cleanliness drive was launched on December 31, 2022, symbolising the end of old habits of littering and dumping, and the start of a new year with cleaner practices. That symbolism helped involve many residents," said Odette Katrak, an active Domlur resident and founder of Beautiful Bharat.

Having returned to Domlur after 15 years, Odette said the scale of litter in the neighbourhood prompted her to act. As both a resident and city-level volunteer, she mobilised like-minded individuals who shared a vision of cleaner surroundings. Their efforts aligned with earlier initiatives in the area. "Together, we've addressed issues such as littering, waste burning, poor segregation, plastic use, spitting and tree care. There has been progress in some areas, while challenges persist in others," she said.

Behavioural change

From the outset, the initiative moved beyond one-day clean-ups. Volunteers identified and worked on fixing black spots, addressing chronic dumping, and encouraging vendors and residents to take responsibility for public spaces. Compost from wet waste generated by an apartment complex was used to nourish avenue trees, immediately drawing public attention. Plastic waste, especially carry bags, became a major focus. In partnership with the then BBMP, the community launched the 'Own Bag or Pay for a Bag' campaign.

Resident and volunteer Bidyut Nath said the regular drives have made a tangible impact. "The carry-your-own-bag campaign addressed excessive plastic use and raised awareness. Shopkeepers proudly displayed our placards in shops and on carts. Over time, many customers began carrying their own bags, which has reduced waste," he said.

Importantly, the initiative has avoided simply shifting waste from streets to landfills. Efforts have centred on segregation, reducing plastic dependency and addressing mixed waste. However, challenges remain. Many residents still hand over wet waste in plastic bags. Active volunteer Satish Suryanarayana noted: "Our carry-your-own-bag and shift-to-cloth-bags campaign was effective, but for wider impact, there must be consistent intervention from regulatory bodies. There are also no clear instructions on reject waste for collectors or citizens, which leads to mixing. Addressing this will be a focus in the coming months."

Another visible concern tackled during the drives has been spitting, particularly gutka stains, often linked to a floating population of delivery personnel and others waiting between trips. 'No Spitting' signs have now been installed across several streets under the StopIndiaSpitting campaign.

Partnerships with civic authorities have strengthened enforcement. "Domlur has active volunteers, which helps us address dumping and waste burning. Penalties can then be issued, and repeat offences reduce once violators know there is strong monitoring," said M Baktha Seelan, marshal supervisor.

Civic partnership

The initiative has also attracted support beyond the neighbourhood. Volunteers from Beautiful Bharat, Indian Ploggers Army and Namma Bengaluru Foundation have participated, along with students from Christ University, whose involvement led to a video on waste management. "Plogging is not just about picking up litter; it's about owning the neighbourhood alongside civic authorities," said Plog Raj. As the initiative enters its fourth year, volunteers say the focus will be on sharper segregation, sustained enforcement and deeper behavioural change.

BDA kills file raj with digital tapal

Applicants receive instant e-receipts, officers face deadline alerts, while real-time audits curb delays, duplication and backroom discretion

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has taken a major step towards strengthening transparency and efficiency in public service delivery by rolling out a Unified Tapal System in collaboration with the Indian Postal Department. The initiative aims to overhaul the existing system for handling public representations, applications and official correspondence, which has long been criticised for delays, duplication and lack of accountability.

Under the current process, representations reach the BDA through multiple counters, physical registers and manual file movements. This fragmented approach often results in difficulties in tracking files, increased pendency and the risk of documents being misplaced. The Unified Tapal System seeks to address these challenges by introducing a centralised, digitised and fully traceable workflow.

BDA Chairman NA Haris said, "With the new system in place, all public representations, both physical and digital, will be received at a single centralised Tapal counter at the BDA. Each application will be digitally scanned, indexed and registered in the e-Office system on the same day it is received. Once registered, files will be electronically routed to the concerned sections or zonal offices, eliminating the need for physical file movement and significantly reducing processing time." The system also introduces greater transparency for citizens. At the time of submission, applicants will receive an acknowledgement slip with an e-receipt number. Citizens can check the status of their complaints or applications by calling the BDA helpline and quoting this number, avoiding repeated visits to BDA offices. Officials said this would make the grievance redressal process more citizen-friendly and accessible.

"Timelines for disposal will be clearly defined based on the nature of the application. Any delay beyond the prescribed time will be automatically visible in the system, enabling officers to intervene and ensure timely action. This real-time monitoring mechanism is expected to improve governance and reduce pendency," added Haris.

The Unified Tapal System also aims to ensure strong accountability within the organisation. Every stage of file processing will be digitally recorded, creating a clear audit trail. This is expected to prevent duplication, misuse or manipulation of files and eliminate the manual gaps that previously led to delays or loss of documents. Continuous monitoring will further ensure that applications do not stagnate at any level. A social media user from BDA Kaniminike apartments said the authority's shift to a citizen-friendly approach, with documented grievance redressal, has improved transparency and accountability over the earlier assurance-based system. — BMB

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

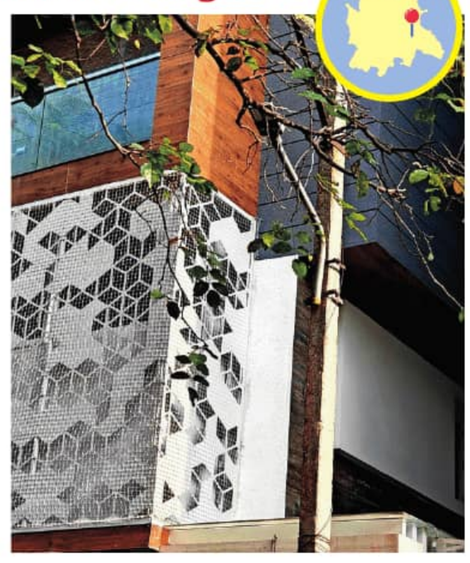
Parking chaos

Katriguppe

Vehicles have been parked for months along the ITI Layout entrance road, from Kathriguppe Main Road to 1st Cross, causing traffic congestion in a no-parking zone.

Street darkness

Sahakar Nagar



A streetlight complaint was lodged but closed without resolution at No. 1427, 12th Main Road, CQAL Layout, Sahakar Nagar, leaving the stretch in darkness.

Smoke nuisance

KR Puram

Heaps of rubbish are burnt every weekend evening behind KR Puram, producing smoke and causing considerable inconvenience to nearby residents.

Ownership updation now made easier for homebuyers

Property buyers will now get faster and simpler mutation, with the Revenue Department rolling out automatic transfer of ownership for registered documents. Once a J-slip is generated from the sub-registrar's office, mutation will be carried out automatically if no objections are received within the stipulated period, without requiring the revenue inspector's fingerprint approval. The move, introduced under Rule 66 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Rules, 1966, marks a major shift from the earlier system where manual approval often led to delays.

According to Revenue Department officials, the change will curb bribery, avoid repeated visits to offices and eliminate unnecessary delays. Certain categories such as bank loans, government land acquisition and mortgaged properties will see immediate mutation without any objection period. If objections are raised, cases will be transferred to revenue courts, with strict instructions to resolve disputes within 90 days.

–BMB

Cleanup initiative promotes responsible waste disposal practices

A plogging drive was organised near a temple abutting the Bannerghatta forest, highlighting the need to protect ecologically sensitive zones from waste pollution. The initiative was led by the Anekal Gram Panchayat, in collaboration with Ploggers Army and Waste Impact Trust. Along with the cleanup, over 25 waste bins were distributed to encourage proper segregation and responsible disposal among devotees and locals. Volunteers collected more than 25 sacks of mixed garbage from the temple surroundings, which are frequented by pilgrims and wildlife alike. Members of Ploggers Army actively participated in the drive, stressing that regular clean-up efforts and community participation are crucial to prevent littering and safeguard forest-edge ecosystems.

–BMB

Volunteers cleared garbage and distributed waste bins

DNA test deemed essential to settle family dispute

Court emphasises importance of scientific evidence in cases involving paternity, considering it crucial to determine veracity of contradicting claims

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IN HIGH COURT

Court says when foundational facts such as marriage and paternity are disputed, judiciary is empowered to adopt appropriate measures to arrive at truth

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a trial court's decision directing a man to undergo a DNA test after he disputed both his marital relationship with a woman and the paternity of her child, observing that such a test was necessary to resolve the controversy effectively.

The case arose from a petition filed by a woman before a court in Vijayapura seeking maintenance for herself and her child. She claimed that she was legally married to the respondent, a schoolteacher, and that the child was born from their wedlock. The man, however, denied the marriage and asserted that he was not the biological father of the child.

In view of the conflicting claims, the trial court ordered a DNA test. Challenging this direction, the man approached the High Court, contending that the court below lacked the authority to compel him to undergo such a test.

Dismissing the challenge, the Kalaburagi Bench of Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum held that when foundational facts such as marriage and paternity are seriously disputed, the court is empowered to adopt appropriate measures to arrive at the truth.

The High Court noted that the DNA test was crucial to determine the veracity of the rival claims and that the petitioner had failed to demonstrate how the order caused him any prejudice.

The court also took note of the fact that despite a maintenance order having been passed nearly five years ago, "not a single rupee" had been paid by the petitioner, indicating a continued attempt to delay the proceedings.

Referring to settled legal principles, the court emphasised the importance of scientific evidence in adjudicating disputes involving paternity. It reiterated that when such evidence is available, courts cannot shut their eyes to the truth.

With these observations, the High Court refused to interfere with the trial court's order and upheld the direction for conducting the DNA test.

Court steps back on apartment dispute

Bengaluru's rapid rise in apartment complexes has brought a surge in resident welfare association disputes, with many cases reaching the High Court. In a recent case involving election-related confusion at Jigani-Bommasandra Link Road, a single-judge bench led by Justice Suraj Govindraju refused to intervene, urging residents to resolve the matter amicably. The court noted that all parties, the applicant and two respondents, are apartment residents, and with over 600 flats involved, the dispute cannot be settled without collective action. Conflicts over whether to register the association under the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act of 1959 or the Apartment Ownership Act of 1972 have persisted for years, and no consensus has emerged.

The bench highlighted that with no functioning association, residents currently lack a mechanism to address grievances, pay dues, or manage apartment affairs. While the state government has introduced the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Act, 2025, to streamline management, the court emphasised that relief will only come if all residents unite and approach the authorities together. Meanwhile, the judiciary expressed hope that residents will eventually resolve disputes internally through cooperation and collective decision-making.

'Addl Registrar can cancel sale deeds'

The Karnataka High Court has delivered a significant ruling empowering the Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies to cancel sale deeds of sites that were illegally allotted by housing cooperative societies. The court clarified that under Section 70 of the Karnataka Cooperative Societies Act, the Registrar has wide powers to act against violations and can even direct the sub-registrar to take further action, provided due process is followed. It stressed that affected parties must be heard and principles of natural justice must be strictly adhered to.

Three labs busted, drugs worth crores seized in B'luru

After cracking a massive drug manufacturing unit in Mysuru last July and seizing 192 kg of mephedrone worth around Rs 390 crore, Maharashtra Police uncovered three drug factories operating in Bengaluru, recovering narcotics valued at nearly Rs 56 crore. Four persons have been arrested in the case.

The breakthrough came on December 21, when officers of Maharashtra's Anti Narcotics Task Force raided a location in Mumbai and seized 1.5 kg of drugs worth Rs 1.5 crore. Based on information provided, the police arrested Belagavi native Prashanth Yallappa Patil. During interrogation, Patil revealed that drugs were being manufactured in Bengaluru. Acting on this lead, teams raided three factories allegedly run by Patil in the city and seized 4.10 kg of solid mephedrone and 17 kg of liquid mephedrone, together valued at Rs 55.88 crore.

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said the operation was a collective effort involving the state police and NCB teams.

He also disputed the value and scale of seizure, saying chemicals allegedly used for drug preparation were also seized, collectively worth around Rs 1.20 crore.

Speaking to reporters, the minister said the Maharashtra Police had informed their Karnataka counterparts before the raids and sought assistance. "Based on the information they got from a person arrested in Mumbai they (Maharashtra Police) along with our police raided the place and seized a lot of chemicals which are supposed to have been used for preparation of drugs," he said.

–BMB

AI cameras to tackle wildlife conflict

The Forest Department is deploying artificial intelligence to reduce human-wildlife conflict by installing AI-powered cameras and camera traps in villages along forest borders to track animal movement, analyse sounds and send real-time alerts. The system, already introduced in 10 human-elephant conflict-prone districts under the 'Elephant Alert' programme, uses data from patrols and public complaints to identify movement patterns and warn residents in advance. An official said, "The cameras can recognise up to 150 wildlife species and even emit sounds to drive animals back into forests, while a 24x7 integrated command and control network coordinates rapid field action." The move comes amid rising conflict, with 34 human deaths and 1,784 livestock losses reported till November 2025, prompting compensation payouts of over Rs 8.6 crore, said the official.

–BMB

AIDSO's 72nd Foundation Day marked

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) observed its 72nd Foundation Day on December 28 in Bengaluru, reaffirming its commitment to defend public education and oppose the state government's proposed KPS Magnet Scheme. Founded in 1954 under the guidance of revolutionary leader Shibdas Ghosh, AIDSO reiterated its longstanding fight for a scientific, secular, democratic and universal education system.

Speaking at the observance, AIDSO members also condemned recent incidents of honour killings, stressing that such crimes stem from deep-rooted social evils that can only be challenged through scientific and egalitarian education. The organisation warned that the KPS Magnet Scheme, which could lead to the closure of over 40,000 government schools, would severely impact marginalised communities, particularly girls and economically weaker students.

The Foundation Day was marked as a protest in Ananthpur, Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural district. District President Apoorva CM, Secretary Kalyan Kumar V, and other members participated, vowing to continue statewide resistance to safeguard public education.

–BMB

Rainwater dreams dashed as drains get concrete makeover

Shantinagar locals demand climate-conscious upgrades as rainwater percolation ignored

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Ongoing concretisation of drains in Shantinagar Ward has provoked residents and activists. They are demanding that the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) authorities, particularly those in charge of the Climate Action Cell, halt the ongoing concretisation of drains on Basappa Road or suggest rectifications to facilitate rainwater percolation. They have criticised the authorities for proposing one thing but implementing another.

Residents and activists stated that BCCC engineers have begun upgrading roadside drains without making provisions for rainwater harvesting. Shantinagar Ward is one of five wards where the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is considering developing a ward-level climate action plan. The other wards are Begur, Vijinapura, Jakkur, and Marappana Palya.

Expressing concern over the concretisation of drains, Kathyayini Chamaraj, Executive Trustee of CIVIC Bangalore, said that GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao made a grand statement in a news report that there would be no more concrete box drains, and that a pipe-and-chamber method with percolation pits for rainwater harvesting would be used. "But please come and see the Basappa Road drain in Shantinagar, which is being fully concretised without percolation pits for rainwater. I received no response from the AE or AEE when I asked them about it. Also, Shantinagar has been selected as the sole ward for the Ward Climate Action Plan in the Central Corporation. Can there be greater irony than this? Can you please talk to the officials and report on it?" she asked.

Ongoing drain concretisation in Shantinagar fuels complaints from climate-conscious residents

Activists argue that city-level and ward-level climate action plans need better alignment to achieve the objectives of the climate action strategy, which is currently not happening. "This is why we need climate action plans to be decentralised to wards," said one activist.

Stating that ward-level climate action should focus on the basics, activist Srinivas Alavilli said that shoulder drains should remain unconcretised, footpaths should allow rainwater to percolate, waste burning should be eliminated, and there should be 100 per cent waste segregation at source along with composting. "When all 369 wards incorporate these measures into their annual plans, Bengaluru will be on a path towards lasting climate action," he added.

Activists criticise BCCC for ignoring percolation pits on Basappa Road, highlighting misalignment between city and ward-level climate plans

Meanwhile, Shantinagar Ward Assistant Engineer Rathod said he would instruct the contractor to make provisions for rainwater percolation. "I am aware that Shantinagar Ward has been selected for implementing the climate action plan. I will visit the site and direct the contractor to include rainwater percolation pits in the drain," the assistant engineer said.

President Murmu boards India's deep-sea shield

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday undertook a sortie aboard the Indian Navy's indigenously built frontline submarine INS Vaghsheer on the Western seaboard. She is the second President to undertake a submarine sortie, after APJ Abdul Kalam aboard INS Sindhu Rakshak in February 2006. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi accompanied Murmu, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, during the dive from the Karwar naval base in Karnataka. Donning a naval uniform, she waved to personnel before boarding and interacted with the crew, lauding their dedication. The President described the submarine as a "shining example of the Indian Navy's professional excellence and combat preparedness."

The President was briefed on the submarine arm's role in India's maritime strategy, its operational capabilities, and contributions to safeguarding national maritime interests. She commended the crew's commitment, spirit of service, and dedication, highlighting the indigenous submarine's significance in national security.

President Murmu boards INS Vaghsheer on historic submarine sortie

INS Vaghsheer, the sixth and final submarine of the P-75 Scorpene project, was commissioned in January. It is among the world's most silent and versatile diesel-electric submarines, capable of anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, area surveillance, and special operations. Armed with wire-guided torpedoes, anti-ship missiles, and advanced sonar, it features modular construction for future upgrades such as Air Independent Propulsion.

The Karwar base is being developed with India's long-term security interests in the Indian Ocean in mind. In October, Murmu flew a Rafale sortie from Ambala IAF Station, becoming the first Indian President to fly in two different IAF fighter aircraft, having earlier flown a Sukhoi-30MKI from Tezpur in April 2023. — PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Losing cool

It was an awkward moment in Davanagere last week when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lost his temper with the media after being asked yet again about the stability of his position. As reporters highlighted the constant buzz around a supposed race for the top post in Karnataka, the CM snapped back, asking whether there was any other news to discuss apart from the Chief Minister's position. Clearly irritated, he chose not to give a direct answer, cut the interaction short, and walked away. Before leaving, he briefly mentioned that he had received a call from the party high command to attend the CWC meeting in Delhi and would be travelling to the national capital.

Sandal slap threat

A video of Magadi MLA HC Balakrishna openly threatening a KAS officer has gone viral, sparking fresh debate on political conduct. The incident occurred during a public grievance meeting last week at the Magadi Taluk Panchayat hall, where citizens had raised complaints about local issues. In a fit of anger, the MLA reportedly told the Tahsildar that if work was not done properly, he would "slap him on behalf of the people with a sandal." He further criticised the officer for inaction, demanded explanations for pending complaints, and warned that failure to respond would invite public wrath, adding that posting the video online would not matter. This is not the first time Balakrishna has confronted officers publicly; similar incidents were reported earlier during taluk-level public hearings, highlighting a pattern of aggressive behaviour that has now drawn widespread attention on social media.

Star wars

With big releases in December, there has been talk of 'star wars' on the silver screen. Adding fuel to the fire, Sandalwood star 'Kichcha' Sudeepa surprised everyone when he said, "My film releases on December 25, and outside, a group is ready for war. I'm ready because I stand by my word. Speak when it's time to speak, and on December 25, let your cheers reach me in Bengaluru." Responding, jailed actor Darshan's wife Vijayalakshmi said, "Some people talk against Darshan and his fans when he isn't around, but when he is, they are nowhere to be seen. Darshan doesn't get angry at his critics, so neither should his fans. Don't lose your head over such people."

Street rescue

During a citywide cleanliness drive, Dr MR Ravi, the deputy commissioner, spotted 60-year-old Qasim Khan begging near a bus stop. Disabled from a past accident, Qasim has been surviving on alms in Rahmat Nagar, Kolar, for years. Auto drivers brought his plight to Ravi, prompting the commissioner to act. Recently, Qasim received a two-wheeler outside the district office, with instructions for officials to help him set up a small cart business and arrange a pension. Qasim said, "I've been living by begging, but this help has truly made me happy."

Screen detox

When the siren rings at 7 pm in Halaga village, Belagavi district, it's not a factory break; it's time to switch off TVs and mobiles. From 7 to 9 pm, the village goes on a full-on digital detox, giving children a chance to open books and families a reason to actually talk, share stories, pray, or enjoy cultural activities together. Even elders join in, swapping gossip for guidance, while laughter replaces notification pings. Inspired by a similar experiment in Maharashtra, the initiative proves that sometimes the best "offline mode" comes with a siren. Who knew unplugging could be this much fun? Village leaders hope the experiment spreads, turning screen-free evenings into the newest community craze.

English vinglish

The Karnataka Legislative Council saw a curious moment when member Ramesh Babu flustered Minister Mankal Vaidya by asking a question in English. The question pertained to fisheries, ports, and inland matters, but the minister was visibly thrown off, replying in English, to which opposition members insisted, "Answer in English!" causing further confusion. Deputy Chairman Pranesh had to step in, asking the minister to respond in Kannada, leaving Mankal Vaidya momentarily at a loss. Ramesh Babu also pressed for developing coastal islands for tourism, noting that DPRs had been prepared for identified islands. Minister Vaidya clarified that tourism initiatives would proceed through public-private partnerships, bringing a practical end to the linguistic mix-up. — Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

Find out what changes with the passing of the Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill

Rent reform decoded

The Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been passed by both houses last week and now awaits the Governor's assent. The amendment seeks to rationalise penalties, decriminalise minor offences, and streamline enforcement under the Karnataka Rent Act, 1999. It aims to create a more trust-based, transparent framework for landlords and tenants while protecting their rights.

What is the Karnataka Rent (Amendment) Bill, 2025 about?

The Bill amends the Karnataka Rent Act, 1999, primarily to increase penalties for contraventions, remove criminal liability for minor offences, and empower the Controller as an adjudicating authority for enforcement.

How are penalties affected under the new Bill?

Penalties have been substantially increased. For instance, fines that were previously 2,000 or imprisonment for one month now range up to 50,000 depending on the offence. Additionally, fines will increase by 10% every three years.

What changes were made regarding offences?

Section 53 has been removed, and Section 55 replaces the term "offence" with "contravention" to decriminalise minor violations. Companies or their officers can still be held accountable if violations occur due to negligence or connivance.

Who enforces the penalties?

The Controller has been given powers akin to a civil court, including inspecting premises, summoning persons, examining witnesses, and reviewing documents to determine penalties.

What about subletting or illegal re-letting?

Tenants or landlords who sublet or relet property in violation of the Act may face fines up to 50,000 or double the rent for the relevant period. This is intended to prevent unauthorised use and protect the rights of both parties.

How does this affect documentation compliance?

Both landlords and tenants must maintain proper lease agreements and submit required particulars. Failure to do so can result in daily fines until the documents are produced, ranging from 1,000 to 20,000 depending on the provision violated.

What if a tenant cannot re-enter the premises after repairs?

If a tenant fails to make re-entry within three months without reasonable excuse, they risk forfeiting the right to re-entry and paying a fine equivalent to three months' rent.

What does the Bill mean for tenants?

Tenants are protected from criminal charges for minor lapses without negligence, but must comply with lease terms and proper documentation. Subletting and delayed re-entry can attract higher fines, promoting responsible tenancy.

What does it mean for landlords?

Landlords must ensure all agreements are registered, documents submitted, and unlawful re-letting avoided. They can now impose stricter penalties for violations, offering a mechanism to safeguard property rights.

How does this impact dispute resolution?

The Bill empowers the Controller to adjudicate disputes efficiently, reducing court dependency and speeding up resolution. This provides a faster and more predictable process for both landlords and tenants.

What's the overall benefit of the amendment?

The amendment strengthens compliance, discourages violations through higher fines, and decriminalises minor offences, creating a balanced system that protects tenants and landlords while encouraging trust-based governance.

Minister's perspective?

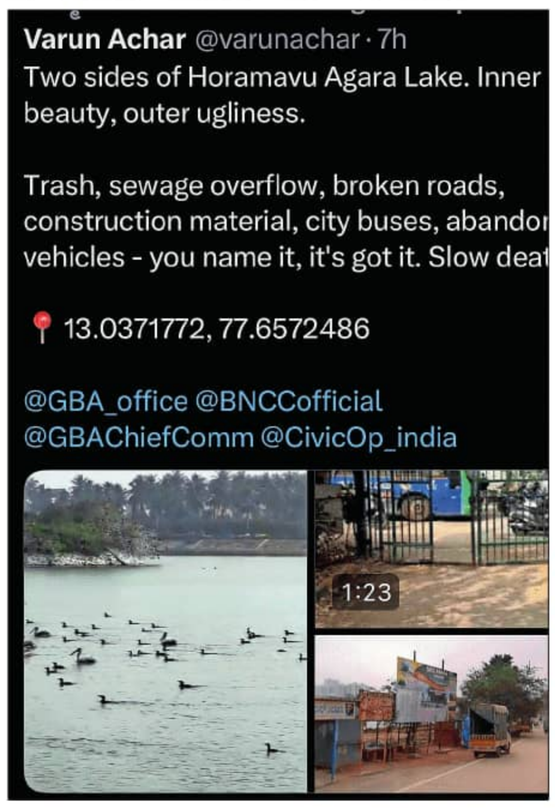
Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said, "The purpose of the amendment is to punish offenders through fines and increase the amount of penalty. Important provisions of the original Act have not been amended."

SOCIALTATTLE

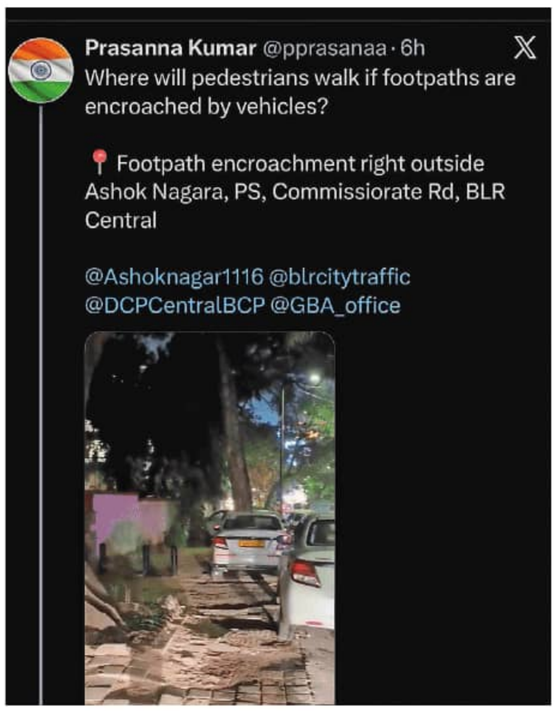
WHAT'S TWEETING

A social media user pointed out, how is anyone expected to walk along Birla Junction–Harlur–Kudlu Road when the entire stretch is buried under plastic waste? What should be a safe pedestrian path has turned into a dumping ground, forcing people onto dangerous roads. Is this the city's idea of walkability?

Citizen flagged the alarming state outside Horamavu Lake, where sewage flow, dumped construction debris and abandoned vehicles choke the surroundings. Instead of protecting a lake buffer, neglect and misuse continue, raising serious concerns about environmental damage and public health.


Varun Achar @varunachar · 7h
Two sides of Horamavu Agara Lake. Inner beauty, outer ugliness.
Trash, sewage overflow, broken roads, construction material, city buses, abandor vehicles - you name it, it's got it. Slow deat
13.0371772, 77.6572486
@GBA_office @BNCCofficial
@GBAChiefComm @CivicOp_india
1:23

Footpaths in Ashok Nagar have been completely encroached by parked vehicles, leaving pedestrians with no option but to walk on busy roads.


Prasanna Kumar @pprasanaa · 6h
Where will pedestrians walk if footpaths are encroached by vehicles?
Footpath encroachment right outside Ashok Nagara, PS, Commissiorate Rd, BLR Central
@Ashoknagar1116 @blrcitytraffic
@DCPCentralBCP @GBA_office

In protest

Anti-clockwise from top: Members of the Hindu Janajagruti Association stage a protest against the alleged atrocities and violence against the Hindu community in Bangladesh at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru on Sunday; An activist of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) holds a placard during a demonstration on 'Save Aravalli' mountain range in the northwestern India, at Freedom Park

'Possible to remove Gandhi's name from history?'

DK Shivakumar slams BJP over VB-G RAM G on Congress Foundation Day

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Congress leader DK Shivakumar on Sunday hailed the party's history on its 140th Foundation Day, announcing that he has written a book on Mahatma Gandhi.

Taking a jibe at the BJP for replacing MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, the Congress leader asked, "Is it possible to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from history?"

He added that he had planned to build 100 Congress offices, out of which 70 have been completed.

DK Shivakumar said, "In Congress, those who sit on the stage are not leaders; the workers working at the booth level are the real leaders, and our Congress party was established 140 years ago. We are called Congresspeople. This history is not for others."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC President and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar attend the Bharat Jodo Sabhangana programme during the Congress Foundation Day and Seva Dal Foundation Day celebrations at the KPCC office, in Bengaluru on Sunday

"What history does the BJP have? We were born for the independence of this country. Is it possible to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from history? I have written a book on Gandhi. I will have it released by President Mallikarjun Kharge. I have planned to build 100 Congress offices; 70 have already been built. We are going to build state and district Congress buildings in Bengaluru. We will discuss this in the next cabinet," he said.

Congress party members have consistently opposed renaming MGNREGA to the G-Ram-G Bill, which was ultimately passed in both houses of the Parliament. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday announced that the party will launch a nationwide 'Save MNREGA' campaign from January 5, making the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) the central focus of a mass movement.

The Indian National Congress celebrated its Foundation Day today. The party was founded on December 28, 1885, in Bombay (Mumbai) in the presence of 72 delegates at the Das Tejpal Sanskrit College. Its founder, General Secretary, was AO Hume, and Vyomesh Chandra Banerjee was made president. **ANI**

Bengaluru Airport consortium in race for Saudi project

GMR Group has passed the qualifying round to submit a bid for the USD 800 million new Taif International Airport project in Saudi Arabia, according to the National Center for Privatisation & PPP of the Arabian country.

Besides GMR, Bengaluru International Airport Ltd – Tamasuk consortium, Turkey's TAV Airports – Mada International Holding consortium, Irish company Daa International-led consortium, and Kalyon Insaat consortium, were qualified for the project bidding.

The project will be taken up under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model under a Build-Transfer-Operate (BTO) contract for a period of 30 years including the construction period.

The new Taif International Airport will include a well-equipped commercial passenger terminal building aligned with the airport's projected capacity and demand, along with facility buildings, utility networks, car parks, and access roads that enable the standard operation of the airport. **PTI**

Zepto files for IPO

Indian quick-commerce firm Zepto has confidentially filed for an initial public offering, a regulatory filing showed on Saturday, positioning itself among India's most anticipated listings next year.

Quick-commerce firms in India are locked in an intense battle for market share, pouring in billions to open more stores as India's growing urban consumer base increasingly opts for 10-minute deliveries for everything from groceries to electronics.

Founded in 2021, Zepto offers over 45,000 products and competes with rivals such as Eternal's Blinkit and Swiggy's Instamart.

The IPO plan comes at a time when Indian markets are set for a record fundraising in 2025.

Zepto was valued at $7 billion in its previous funding round in October when it raised $450 million. **Reuters**

Complaint says association held internal hearings, imposed penalties

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Legal experts have warned that such parallel systems of justice pose serious risks to the rule of law. "When private bodies begin to investigate crimes and impose punishments, it erodes the authority of the legal system and normalises impunity," said a senior criminal lawyer. "Victims may be pressured into silence, while offenders escape accountability. RWAs are meant to manage civic amenities, not exercise judicial authority," he explained.

A former police official pointed out that internal settlements in criminal matters can also distort crime data. "If offences are not reported, it creates a false picture of safety and prevents timely intervention by the police. This can allow criminal behaviour to continue unchecked," the official said. He further noted that the closed nature of gated communities often enables such dominance. "Associations function with little external oversight. This creates conditions where decisions are driven by influence and hierarchy rather than law. Those who question the system risk social isolation or retaliation," he explained.

Sociologists noted that such practices often deepen power imbalances within gated communities and RWAs often replicate feudal power structures under the guise of community management. "Residents' associations are not neutral institutions. When they act as judges, vulnerable groups — including women, tenants and domestic workers — may face intimidation or coercion," said a Bengaluru-based social researcher.

"This undermines trust and creates a culture of fear rather than safety. In many cases, association office-bearers act as unelected authorities, controlling access, mobility and even personal behaviour. This kind of domination normalises arbitrary decision-making and weakens democratic accountability," he added.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Anand Dilip Ingole S/o. DilipKumar Zaburao Ingole, 38 yrs residing at DLF Amruthahalli Bangalore, hereby declare that my correct name is Anand Dilipkumar Ingole and my father's correct name is DilipKumar Zaburao Ingole and my mother's correct name is Sharda Dilipkumar Ingole as per Affidavit - IN-KA30901615650172X on 22-Dec-2025 attested by Notary Public - S R Ravi Kumar

I Ayazuddin Aleemuddin Khatib S/O, Aleemuddin Khatib R/o #9 1st Cross 1st Main Road Muddamma Garden Ext. Bengaluru 560046 have changed my name to Ayazuddin Khatib.

I, MOHAMMED FAROOK BASHA S/o. Minni Abdulla Basha R/a #1208, Ayothi Dass Nagar, DJ.Halli, Arabic College post, Bengaluru- 560045 have changed my Name to M MOHAMMED FAROOQ vide affidavit dated 26.12.2025 before Notary M.Rajendra, Bangalore

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Swimmers, athletes, cricketers, and other sportswomen from Karnataka, who bagged gold medals and make the state proud in 2025. Some went on to represent the country at the International level too

LADIES FIRST

SS Shreekumar
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

We look at the 'first ladies' of Karnataka sport, swimmers, athletes, cricketers, etc., who were in the forefront and graced the podium to accept their gold medals and make themselves and Karnataka proud in 2025. Some went on to represent the country at the International level too.

Many refreshing new faces emerged to provide strong reassurance that there is a lot of talent down the pipeline despite the administration of many disciplines leaving a lot to be desired.

In the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand, Karnataka finished fifth in the overall medal tally, securing 34 gold, 18 silver and 28 bronze for a total of 80 medals. In the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar in May 2025, Karnataka placed fourth with a total of 58 medals, comprising 17 gold, 26 silver and 15 bronze medals. In both these multi-sports events, the women provided a major share of the medals.

ATHLETICS

Karnataka produced a fine showing in the Indian Open athletics meet in Bengaluru in June 2025. Athletes scooped up medals in track and field events as well.

GK Vijayakumari won the gold in the 400 m one-lapper in 53.34 secs. in the 2025 Indian Open World Athletics Continental Tour in Bhubaneswar. She was named as the Best Athlete at the Karnataka State Athletics Championship 2024-25. Vijayakumari has a personal best of 53.01 secs. in the 400m. race. The women's team also won the 4x400 m relay bronze clocking 3:43.43 min. Megha R. won the 400 m hurdles silver in 1:00.68 min. in Bhubaneswar.

Ambika V threw the iron ball to a distance of 14.14 mts. to win the shot put gold while her teammate Brinda Gowda took the bronze with a throw of 12.59 mts.

In the high jump competition, Pallavi Patil bagged the silver with a leap of 1.76 mts. while her teammate Supriya SB won the bronze in 1.74 mts.

"We saw some new talent emerging for sure. Unathi Aiyappa can turn out to be a good sprinter, hurdler. Priya Mohan, of course is a one lap specialist. Pavana is a good jump prospect. Poovamma has been doing fine. It is good to see some athletes emerging with consistent performances," said Ashwini Nachappa, Karnataka and India's sprinting legend.

BADMINTON

Lakshya Rajesh, 16, upset fancied players in the Under-17 category of the Badminton Asia Championships this year in Chengdu, China, where she secured a silver medal losing to compatriot Diksha Sudhakar of Tamil Nadu 16-21, 9-21 in the final. Lakshya had beaten Ria Haga of Japan 21-15, 21-19 in the semi-final after having toppled Thailand's top seed Lalita Sattayathadakoon in the quarter-finals.

Karnataka did well in athletics, basketball, cricket, football, taekwondo, tennis, swimming and badminton on the national arena

BASKETBALL

Karnataka did well in basketball. Players like Mahek Sharma, Nidhi Umesh, Nidhi Srinivas, Tisha V played key roles in the Youth team winning the Khelo India Youth Games gold medal. Mahek Sharma was selected to represent India in the Women's Youth 3x3 side at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain.

The Under-23 side bagged the silver in the Under-23 3x3 national championship. Mekhala Gowda, Niharika Reddy, and Nidhi Umesh were the ones to sparkle.

The Women's team took the bronze in the 38th National Games in Dehradun.

"The Karnataka senior women's team has not won anything in the National Championships for a long time. Immediate and proper steps must be taken to improve their performances. At the junior level, teams have done well in age group events. Players like Niharika Reddy and Mekhala Gowda have a lot of talent and surely bring a lot of hopes for the future. Mahek is a wonderful 3x3 player as well," said former India International and the former Karnataka coach Jayavanthi Shyam.

> **"We saw some new talent emerging... It is good to see some athletes emerging with consistent performances** –Ashwini Nachappa

CRICKET

Led by Vandita K Rao, Karnataka won the BCCI Women's Under-19 T20 Trophy elite cricket tournament defeating Andhra by seven wickets in the final in Kolkata in November 2025. They had defeated Baroda by 48 runs in the semi-finals.

Players like Rachitha Hatwar, Liyanka Shetty, Shreya Chavan, Deeksha C. D., Kashvi Kandikuppa, Karnika Karthick, Srinithi P. Rai, Deeksha J., Veda Varshini and Lavanya Chalana produced timely batting and bowling performances to outshine their opponents and eventually clinch the crown for Karnataka.

Rachitha Hatwar (234 runs in eight matches) and Liyanka Shetty (200 runs in eight matches) took the top two slots in the tournament's batting charts.

Among the bowlers also Karnataka players took the first two spots. Deeksha J. took 19 wickets in eight games while Veda Varshini had 15 scalps in eight matches while Vandita Rao was fourth with 13 wickets in eight games.

The Karnataka Under-23 women also performed well in the BCCI - Women's Under-23 T-20 Trophy when they entered the semi-final. But they went down fighting to Delhi by 10 runs.

FOOTBALL

Kickstart Football Club won the Karnataka Women's League (KWL) Super Division title with teams like Kemp FC, Misaka United, Bengaluru FC, Roots FC, Pink Panthers, Legends de Sporting, Maatru Pratishtana, and PASS FC in the fray. At the National level, teams from the State did not show much sparkle though they would have emerged stronger by the experience.

"The India Under-17, Under-20 and the Senior women's teams qualified for the final rounds of their respective Asian championships. But there is no Karnataka player in any of the three teams. It is a sad reflection on the state of women's football in the state," said a former India International player on condition of anonymity.

SWIMMING

Teen sensation and golden girl Manavi Varma, a product of Dolphin Aquatics, played a massive role in the Karnataka dominance of the swimming competition at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 in Bihar. She won three gold and a silver to power Karnataka's 17-gold and 33-medal haul in the Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD) Swimming Pool. She had victories in the 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, 200m medley and a silver in 50m breaststroke.

Dhinidhi Desinghu won the 200m Freestyle with a National record with a time of 02:2.97 sec. She also bagged the gold in the 100 m Freestyle and the bronze in the 50 m Freestyle event. Dhinidhi also represented India in the 11th Asian Aquatics in Ahmedabad. Tanmayi Dharmesh won the 50m backstroke at the State Games.

TAEKWONDO

Ankitha N from Kwan's Taekwondo Academy, Bangalore, made history as she became the first athlete from the state to represent India in the Girls' Under-49 kg category at the 3rd Asian Youth Games 2025 in Bahrain. Coached by Gautham Lavakumar, Ankita's journey began at the state level, winning championships and progressing to win the gold at the national selection stage with victories over strong opponents.

TENNIS

The 13-year-old Mysuru student Padmapriya Ramesh Kumar, the Under-14 India No. 1, won the Under-16 girls singles National series tournament in December 2025.

In Cuesports, Vidya Pillai won the 6-Red Snooker title in the 2024-25 National Championships. "Our performance in 2025 was nothing much. But a good number of girls are turning up at the KSBA to undergo coaching. Hopefully, we will have more champions in the next year or two," opined Umadevi N., the former World billiards and National snooker champion from Karnataka.

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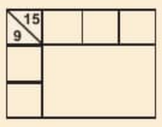
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

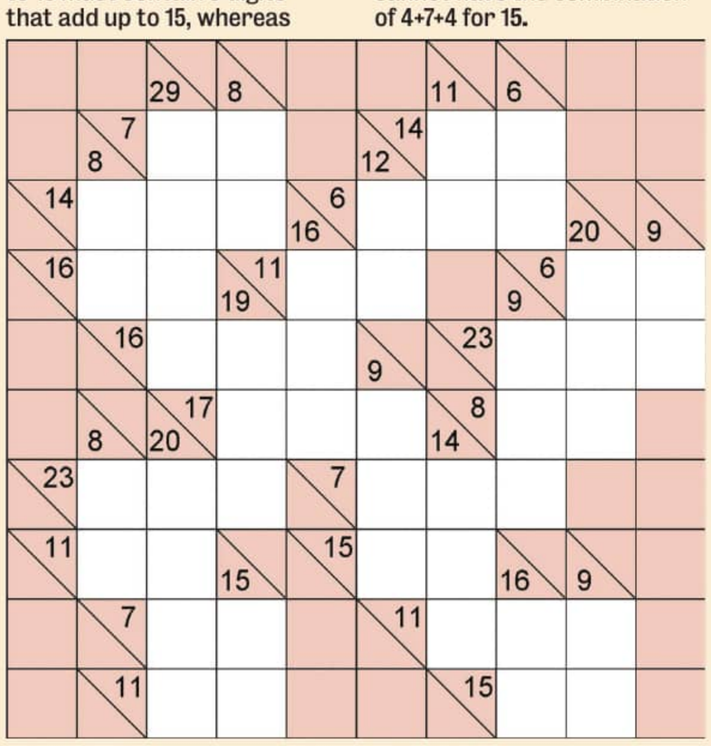
There are blue and red marbles in a bowl. 120 of them are blue and 40% of them are red. What is the total number of marbles?

Kakuro

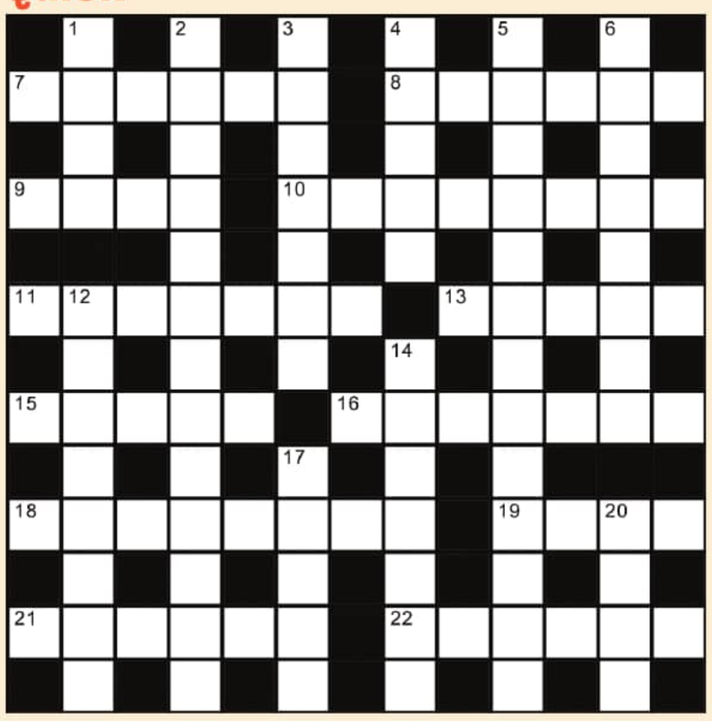
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Renounce or repudiate on oath (6)
8 Flight of steps (6)
9 __ __ true : a question of doubt ? (2,2)
10 Hearing (8)
11 Teach (7)
13 Frequently (5)
15 Reside (5)
16 Sightseer (7)
18 Streaming or pouring (8)
19 By ___ : by memory alone? (4)
21 The elephants for the Mysore Dussehra were trained at this camp (6)
22 Pastors' assistants (6)

DOWN

1 Wading bird (4)
2 Cosmopolitan (13)
3 Meals (7)
4 Lay ___ : abandon or reject ? (5)
5 Duped or fooled; gypped (5,3,1,4)
6 Profits, yield or earnings (8)
12 Heavy shower (8)
14 Gazed, stared or ogled (7)
17 Queues (5)
20 ___ out: dismiss (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS Y

FJ RJZW UJWS UXVK RJZW UKJNT KTGWV, GPF RJZ UXNN MZOOTTF–VKTWT'M MJ NXV–VNT OJQYTVXVXJP.

Linemaro

If I had a rupee for every time you made me smile, I'd be a millionaire many times over

Mindchow

Complete abstinence is easier than perfect moderation

Joke of the day

Faith can move mountains, but not furniture

Loop

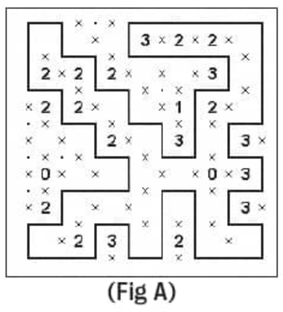
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

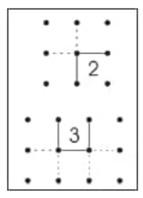
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

SudokuChallenge

				2		8		
			8	9			3	
6	1	8						
8			9			6	4	
9		6				2		7
	4	7			1			8
						5	2	9
	8			5	2			
		4		3				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 23

4 5 6 8

Medium

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 6

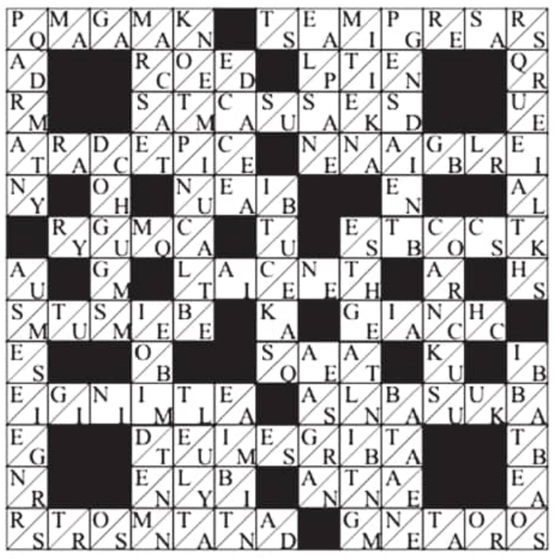
7 6 3 2

Hard

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 13

2 2 9 4

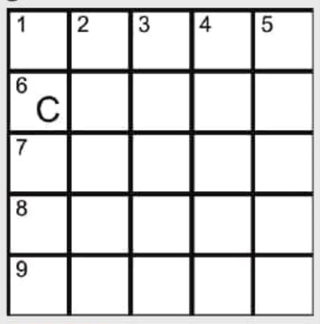
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

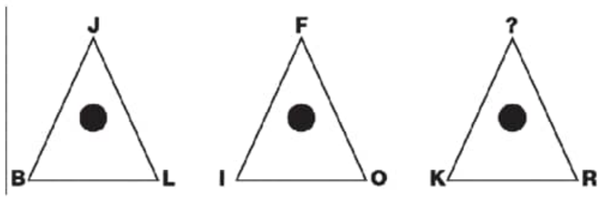
1 SL bus; 6 Act up; 7 Ranet; 8 Aires; 9 Plied

DOWN

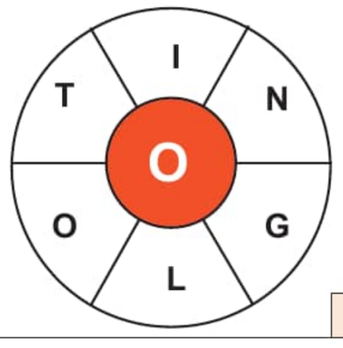
1 Scrap; 2 Liana; 3 Tulip; 4 Rubes; 5 Ed set

Mensapuzzle

Which letter tops the third triangle?



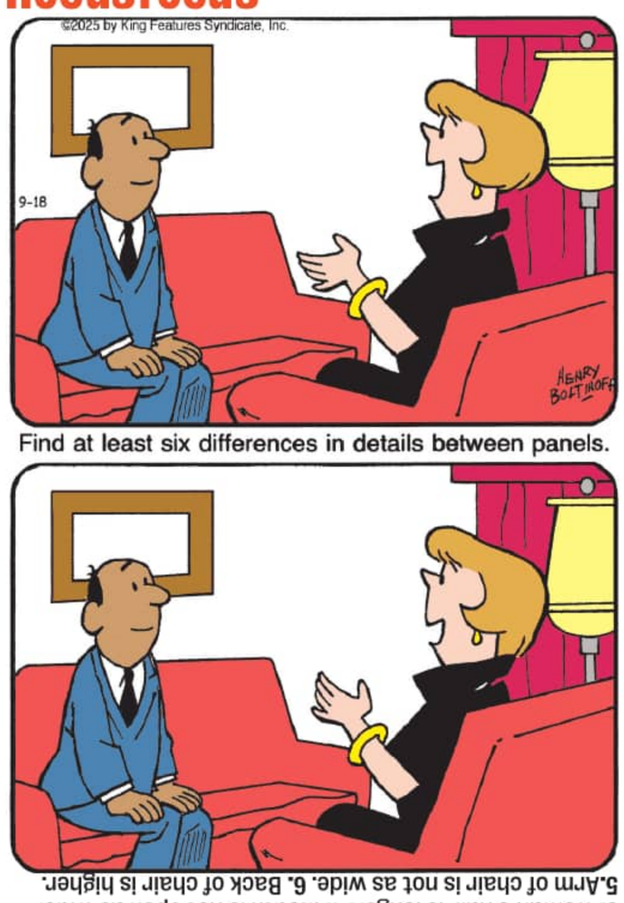
Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

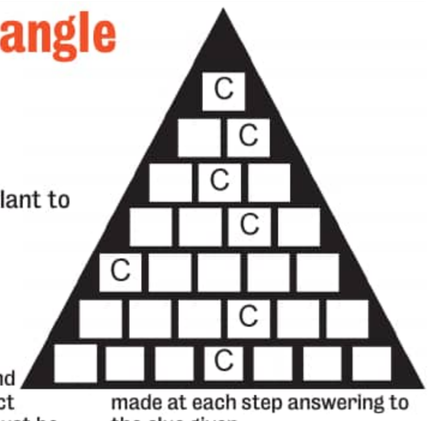
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Lampshade is different. 3. Woman's hair is longer. 4. Mouth is not open as wide. 5.Arm of chair is not as wide. 6. Back of chair is higher.

Riddler

What does this rebus represent?
1.Bob drowned Frosted Flakes 2.Joe buried Cap'n Crunch 3.Sarah threw Rice Krispies off a cliff 4.Emily shot Cocoa Puffs

Alpha triangle

1 Third letter
2 Account, abbr.
3 King beater
4 Speed contest
5 Core group
6 Acted as a stimulant to
7 Rich fabric



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

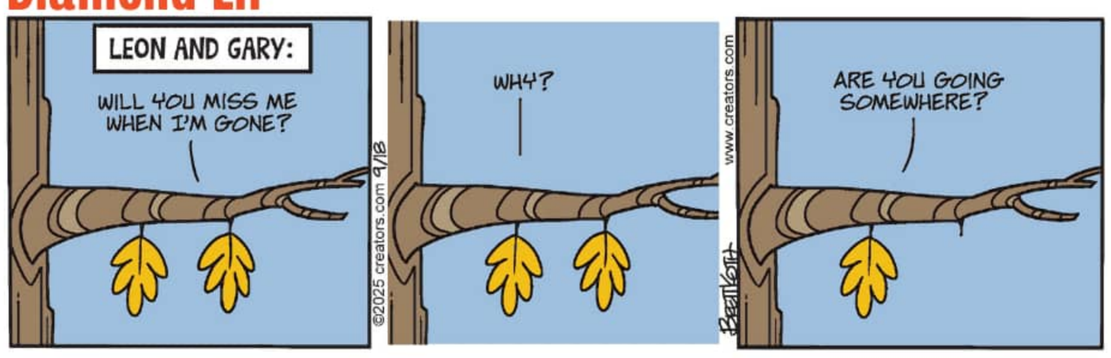
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

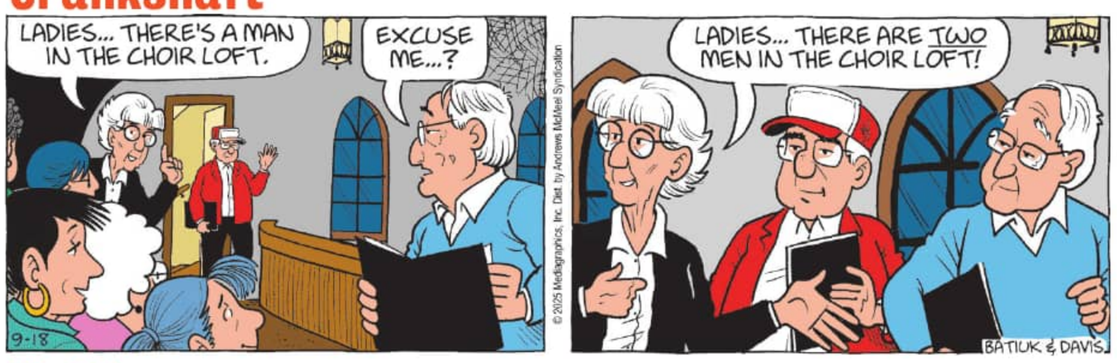
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Capricorn, look toward your long-term health and wellness goals. While career demands are high, neglecting your physical framework undermines everything you build. Schedule that long-postponed appointment or establish a sustainable, non-negotiable daily routine. A strong body supports a strong enterprise. Prioritise this essential infrastructure now for future stamina.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Significant change touches many areas; job, home, or room shifts occur. Consider new housing or relocation plans and stay attentive to children's health. Embrace transformation thoughtfully while protecting family well-being today

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Patience pays off as colleagues cooperate and projects flow smoothly. Meditation speeds teamwork and clarity; short state trips with family o er bonding. Maintain calm while collaborative e orts pave the way for shared success.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Family obligations dominate, temporarily sidelining work. You may splurge on personal tech like that laptop you wanted. By day's end, expect encouraging workplace news; financial updates likely boost mood and practical plans.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Focus on networking and strengthening social ties today while choosing home-cooked meals for stomach comfort. Think creatively about the future and show gratitude to your partner; small loving gestures matter significantly now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Engrossed in leading a project, promotion potential increases; stay cautious with investments and avoid impulsive purchases. Keep finances secure, close the wallet, and channel energy into career growth for long-term gain.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Financial luck favours investing now; consider property opportunities and religious short trips nearby. Practical choices align with spiritual interests; measured investments may yield steady returns and meaningful personal enrichment today.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Health concerns advise staying indoors; protect yourself from exposure. Business gains look positive; students should focus solely on studies and important projects today for best outcomes and minimal distraction.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Workday brings new responsibilities from your boss; relationship tensions resolve. Consider loans for asset-building like car or house, but plan to avoid heavy debt later; structure future finances cautiously for stability.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Fortune favours you in love and career; single hearts find romance while professional life improves. Investing in jewellery could be rewarding. Embrace blessings and nurture romantic connections with warmth and confidence today.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Workplace happiness arrives, potential promotion elevates reputation and social standing. Couples may seek private time to reconnect, strengthening bonds. Professional prestige supports broader social networks and personal satisfaction overall.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

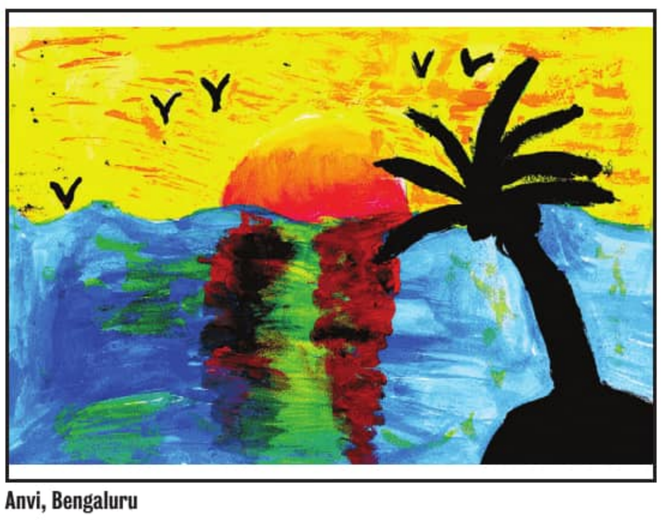
Slow start gives way to creative energy at night; revamp business plans and take solitary walks to clear your head. Evening creativity inspires fresh strategies; plan carefully for meaningful improvements ahead.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

New work opportunities appear, accept without hesitation. Students should explore new hobbies to expand skills. Job changes feel favourable now; embrace transitions to grow professionally and broaden future prospects.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Anvi, Bengaluru

Ananya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

120 = (100-40) / 100(x)
120 = 60 / 100(x)
120 =3 / 5(x)
120 / 1 = 3x/5
1(3x) = 5(120)
3x = 600
3x / 3 = 600/3
x = 200 total marbles

BULL'S EYE

goon, igloo, ingot, into, lingo, lion, logo, loin, LOOTING, lotion, onto, toil, tong, tool, TOOLING

FAST FIVE

S	L	U	B	S
C	A	P	U	T
A	N	T	R	E
R	A	I	S	E
P	I	L	E	D

RIDDLER

Serial Killers (Cereal Killers)

STRIKE OUT

PAGAN SAMPRAS
ARMAS SED
RODPIE
AMASSED
MACTIRE
ENABLE
NEB A
STOCK
UMA YUM
HEN Y
TACT
ERASE
ANCHE
MET ACES
ERIT DEMEGRE
GNITE ALASKA
SEA SUB
SUSIE BEACH
AMTACERS
YUMA STOCK
HENY
NEBA

Screen presence

Actor Prabhas praised his "The Raja Saab" co-star Sanjay Dutt and said his screen presence is more than enough.

"The Raja Saab" is a pan-India project and is produced under TG Vishwa Prasad under the People Media Factory banner.

It is directed by Maruthi, known for films such as "Prati Roju Pandage" and "Prema Katha Chitram and is set to release on January 9, 2026.

Prabhas attended the pre-release event in Hyderabad on Saturday, which was attended by a large number of fans, according to a press release.

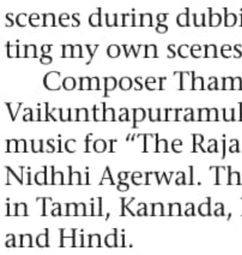
The "Baahubali" actor spoke on his experience of working with Dutt and said watching his scenes would make him forget his own. "Sanjay sir... just your screen presence is more than enough. When they put a close-up on you, you completely consume the screen...When I watched his scenes during dubbing, I started forgetting my own scenes," he said.

Composer Thaman S of "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo" fame will score music for "The Raja Saab". It also stars Nidhhi Agerwal. The film will be released in Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, and Hindi.

Reunion on the cards?

Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt might team up again for a gripping post-apocalyptic film called Pralay. This comes after their hit chemistry in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. Industry buzz suggests producers want Alia to star as the leading lady alongside Ranveer, thrilling fans eager for more of their magic.

Jai Mehta, acclaimed for his intense storytelling, helms 'Pralay', a film depicting a catastrophe-ravaged planet plunging humankind into turmoil. As quoted by Mid-Day, "The female lead is central to the narrative. She isn't introduced as a love interest. She challenges the hero's ideas in a collapsing world. Who could wield that power better than Bhatt? She brings credibility. In a film this experimental, you need powerhouses and actors the audience's trust." Ranveer and Alia could team up for the third time on screen, following their roles in 'Gully Boy' (2019) and the beloved 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' (2023). 'Pralay' aims to start shooting in mid-2026, once Singh wraps up his packed slate, including the 'Don 3' reboot confirmed last month. **ETimes**



Jeepers creepers

Kalki says working on dark material can take a mental toll

Dark roles seem to follow Kalki Koechlin and she isn't resisting. After her eerie turn in Ek Thi Daayan, the actor continues to explore psychologically intense narratives, most recently with the paranormal thriller Bhay: The Gaurav Tiwari Mystery and another horror film currently in the works.

Kalki admits that working on such dark material can take a mental toll, which is why she follows a personal ritual to detach from her characters. Speaking about the impact of intense roles, she said, "Generally, it's not like I'm worried about horror when I'm shooting it. It's just the intensity of the role sometimes that gets to you. When you shoot for 12 hours doing something very intense, you need a ritual to come out of it. When I get home, I watch stand-up comedy, or I do some dance — like a silly, fun dance or an exercise routine with fun elements in it— just something that really counters the feeling of heaviness."

Interestingly, despite frequently working in the genre, Kalki admits she is not a fan of horror films as a viewer. "I hate horror. I'm very scared - I'm like the audience, I get scared very quickly," she said. However, she added that the experience of filming horror is markedly different. "When you're shooting horror, I don't feel that way because it's quite technical. You're not really feeling all the vibes," she said.

That said, Kalki acknowledged that there were moments on the sets of Bhay that felt genuinely unsettling. "On Bhay, there were some vibes. There were some pretty scary things going on. Lights were flickering, and one day a tree fell on the ambulance— it was very dramatic. It's scary," she shared.

–Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

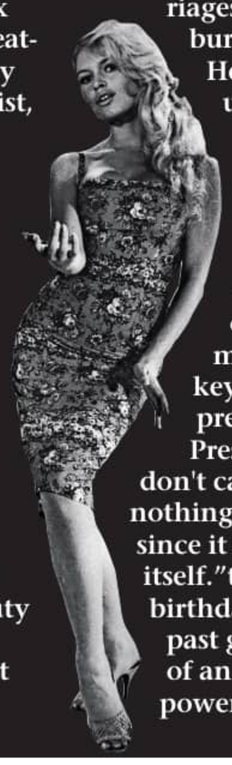
Brigitte Bardot, 1960s sultry sex symbol turned militant animal rights activist dies at 91

Brigitte Bardot, the French 1960s sex symbol who became one of the greatest screen sirens of the 20th century and later a militant animal rights activist, has died. She was 91.

Bruno Jacquelin, of the Brigitte Bardot Foundation for the protection of animals, told The Associated Press that she died at her home in southern France, and would not provide a cause of death. He said no arrangements have yet been made for funeral or memorial services. She had been hospitalised last month.

Bardot became an international celebrity as a sexualized teen bride in the 1956 movie "And God Created Woman." Directed by her then-husband, Roger Vadim, it triggered a scandal with scenes of the long-legged beauty dancing on tables naked.

At the height of a cinema career that spanned some 28 films and three marriages, Bardot came to symbolise a nation bursting out of bourgeois respectability. Her tousled, blond hair, voluptuous figure and pouty irreverence made her one of France's best-known stars.



Bardot's second career as an animal rights activist was equally sensational. She travelled to the Arctic to blow the whistle on the slaughter of baby seals; she condemned the use of animals in laboratory experiments; and she opposed sending monkeys into space. "Man is an insatiable predator," Bardot told The Associated Press on her 73rd birthday in 2007. "I don't care about my past glory. That means nothing in the face of an animal that suffers, since it has no power, no words to defend itself."told The Associated Press on her 73rd birthday in 2007. "I don't care about my past glory. That means nothing in the face of an animal that suffers, since it has no power, no words to defend itself." **–AP**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Surya is ready for release

Two businessmen from Belagavi have joined the list of movie producers from North Karnataka. Basavaraj Benne and Ravi Benne, who are settled in Pune, have backed Surya that is scheduled for release on January 15. Surya is about a slum-dweller who has to struggle to unite with his sweetheart. Prashanth and Harshitha are the lead pair. The movie's trailer was unveiled at MMB Legacy on Wednesday.

"We agreed to support this movie as we considered it as our contribution to our state. We have made arrangements to release the movie on January 15," said Benne. Prashanth said he plays a young man from a slum. "The movie has come out well. I am very happy to be part of this team," he said.

Director Sagar Das, who worked as an associate for director B Suresh, said they used names of prominent personalities including APJ Abdul Kalam, Dr BR Ambedkar, and Narendra Modi as these great people came from poor and middle-class families. "The movie was shot in North Karnataka, Bengaluru, and Pune," the director said.

Award-winner on OTT

Director Ashok Kadaba is excited about the release of his recent movie Nimbiya Banada Myaga on Amazon Prime from January 11. Nimbiya Banada Myaga is Kadaba's sixth movie as a director. He has helmed movies such as Seethamma Bandalu Sirimallige Thottu, Amrutha Ghalige, My Name is Kalam, and Satyam.

Kadaba says the release of the movie on OTT will give people who missed it at theaters a chance to see it. "It is a good movie. The shooting of its sequel is in the final stages," said the director.

He said that he was happy with the awards the movie won at film festivals. The movie was screened at film festivals including Mysuru Dasara Film Festival 2025 and Crown International Film Festival. "The movie won best film award at Crown International Film Festival, Bangladesh and Best Director award at Dhanbad International Film Festival. It won Best Film Award, Best Cinematography Best Actress Award at 7 Sisters North East International Film Festival," the director said. Nimbiya Banada Myaga features Shanmukha Govindaraj, the grandson of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar.